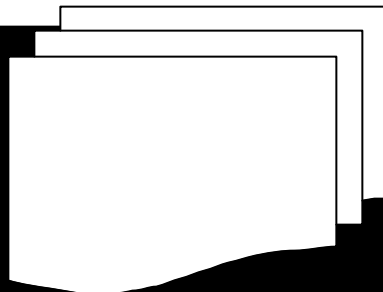


the physical disability **FILE**



information for and about people with physical disabilities

Loans for Assistive Technology

The Wisconsin Office for Persons with Physical Disabilities (OPPD) has been awarded a \$750,000 federal grant to provide loans to people with disabilities so they can buy equipment and technology they need to remain independent.

The grant from the US Department of Education will be used to develop a low-interest and guaranty loan program. The loans will help people with disabilities buy equipment such as hearing aids, home or vehicle modifications, and wheelchairs.

The 12-month program, called **WisLoan**, will be open to people of all ages who have disabilities and who want to buy assistive technology. The program—which is expected to begin in the Spring of 2002—has no income requirements, and does not require individuals to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, participating private banks will provide low-interest loans for qualified borrowers.

IndependenceFirst, an independent living center based in Milwaukee, will provide program information and statewide coordination. Independent living centers throughout the state will provide technical assistance, applications and assistive technology.

IndependenceFirst
600 W. Virginia Street, #301
Milwaukee, WI 53204-1516

Patti Kraemer, WisLoan Coordinator
414/291-7520 Ext. 427 (Voice & TTY)

For more information about assistive technology, visit the WisTech web site at: www.wistech.state.wi.us.

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